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- 1. After Valter Ulbricht's return from his visit to Russia, a meeting of the SED Politburo was held at the residence of Vilhelm Pieck on 13 April. Ulbricht stated that if West Germany joins the Council of Europe, the Russians will announce their intention of incorporating East Germany into the eastern bloc.
- 2. Ulbricht said that the whole German question will have to be settled within a year. If it is not possible to achieve the unity of Germany, the Soviet Union will conclude a separate peace treaty with East Germany. Such a treaty would be "based on the Potsdam agreement"; this includes, among other things a provision for reparations to Russia to the value of ten billion dollars, of which the Russians claim five billions are still outstanding.
- 3. Defensive measures in the Soviet zone are to be intensified, according to Ulbricht. The occupation troops will be reinforced, especially by armored units. The paramilitary police will be armed with heavy machine guns and light artillery.
- 4. Any additional food imported from the Soviet Union to meet new requirements will be charged to the East German government. At the same time, efforts are to be made to increase interzonal trade, whether legal or illegal.
- 5. Following Ulbricht's presentation of these points, Otto Grotewohl and Heinrich Rau argued that the payment of five billion dollars to Russia would necessitate the continuance of a low standard of living in East Germany, the abandonment of all plans for new investments, and the intensification of existing difficulties in industry. It is understood that Pieck found himself in disagreement with Ulbricht, and that he felt that the Russians were not correctly informed of the situation in East Germany; this led to his decision to make a trip to Noscow.
- 6. The FDJ rally in Berlin planned for Whitsuntide was also discussed. Ulbricht said that Moscow had ruled that no action should be taken which might lead to clashes or disturbances. Grotewohl pointed out that transport difficulties

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will make it impossible for more than 250,000 persons to take part in the rally: The marches will be accompanied by 7,000 police, and 7,000 more will be held in reserve.

Comment: Picck left for Moscow by air, accompanied by Ambassadors

V.S. Semenov and G. N. Pushkin.

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